



FINANCE COMMITTEE

APRIL 6, 2009

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Backus called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room at Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street in Auburn.

Chair Backus, Vice Chair Bill Peloza and Member Lynn Norman were present. Present during the meeting were Mayor Peter B. Lewis, City Attorney Daniel B. Heid, Finance Director Shelley Coleman, Risk Manager Rob Roscoe, Planning, Building and Community Director Cindy Baker, Senior Planner Karen Scharer, Employee Relations and Compensation Manager John Fletcher, and Deputy City Clerk Cathy Richardson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the March 23, 2009 Finance Committee meeting.

Member Norman moved and Chair Backus seconded to approve the March 23, 2009 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED. 2-0. Vice Chair Peloza abstained as he was not present at the March 23, 2009 Finance Committee meeting.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Vouchers

1. Claims

F4.9.5

Claims check numbers 383857 through 384382 in the amount of \$2,289,438.99 and one wire transfer in the amount of \$4,494.00 and dated April 6, 2009.

2. Payroll

F4.9.2

Payroll check numbers 525986 to 526206 in the amount of \$370,111.22 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,202,577.09 for a grand total of \$1,572,688.31 for the pay period covering March 12, 2009 to April 1, 2009.

Committee members reviewed the consent items and briefly discussed claims vouchers 383872, 382894, 383895, 383903, 383961, 384017, 384039, 384063, 384069, 384093, 384102, 384162, 384167, 384218, and 384252.

Vice Chair Pelosa moved and Member Norman seconded to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED. 3-0.

IV. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinances

There was no ordinance for Committee consideration.

B. Resolutions

There was no resolution for Committee consideration.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution No. 4465

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Auburn, Washington, approving and adopting an Identity Theft Prevention Program

Committee Members briefly discussed Resolution No. 4465.

B. Waste Management Contract Extension

Member Lynn Norman spoke in favor of the contract extension with Waste Management and inquired regarding procedure once the contract term expires.

Director Coleman stated that staff will begin formulating a request for proposals prior to the expiration of the Waste Management contract.

C. Fourth Quarter Update

Committee Members reviewed the fourth quarter update and briefly discussed external utility taxes and admission tax, interfund utility taxes, General Fund expenditures, Special Revenue Fund, Mitigation Fees, Airport Fund, Golf Course Fund, and Equipment Rental Fund.

D. Utility Fees

Mayor Lewis spoke of citizen comments he has received regarding the hardship endured when faced with paying the water shut-off penalty fee of \$95.00. Due to the current distressed economic conditions, staff recommends reducing the second shut-off penalty fee from \$95.00 to \$25.00.

In response to questions from Councilmember Pelosa, Director Coleman stated that shut-offs are performed weekly. There are approximately 30 shut-offs per week. The second shut-off penalty fee has existed since the late 1990's and was originally implemented to encourage payment in a timely manner.

E. Animal Control Contract Extension

Manager John Fletcher explained that the addendum to the contract with King County for enhanced animal control services provides for an adjusted hourly rate to reflect current costs to the County. Manager Fletcher reviewed the differences between the hourly rate and overtime rate charged by King County.

F. Ordinance No. 6232

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Auburn, Washington, related to the Current Use Assessment Tax Program, adopting criteria for 2009 applications, appointing members to the joint determining authority, and assessing an application fee

Senior Planner Karen Scharer reviewed the processes for open space taxation. The Open Space Taxation Act allows property owners to request their open space lands be valued by the County Assessor at their current use rather than at their highest and best use. When that property is located within the city, that city becomes a Joint Determining Authority (JDA), which is comprised of three city and three county Councilmembers. In order to consider applications, the City of Auburn must establish its processes so as to coordinate with Pierce County processes. The

City must appoint three members and one alternate to participate in the JDA and adopt Pierce County Public Benefit Rating System to provide consistent evaluation of applicants. The City's reaffirmation of the miscellaneous administration decision fee is \$500.

Senior Planner Scharer reviewed the Washington State Department of Revenue Open Space Taxation Act, Revised Code of Washington sections 84.34.020, 84.34.030, and 84.34.037, Washington Administrative Code section 458-30-220, and Pierce County's Public Benefit Rating System tables 2.114-1 and 2.114-2.

Committee Members briefly discussed Ordinance No. 6232.

G. Resolution No. 4472

Director Baker reviewed the current moratorium on Conditional Use Permits on properties located within the R2 Single Family Residential District, R3 Two-Family (Duplex) Residential District and the C1 Light Commercial District. The moratorium will expire on May 3, 2009. Staff has not had sufficient time to complete the City Code update, therefore it would be necessary to extend the term of the moratorium. Due to requests from citizens, staff determined the potential to remove the C1 zone from the moratorium, which would allow development currently allowed under the C1 designation. Under the current moratorium, apartments are the only development that is not allowed. The Public Works Committee reviewed the requests and suggests that the City continue the prohibition for development of apartments, but allow mixed-use development in the C1 zone. The Public Works Committee suggests a ratio of 20% or greater for mixed use, which would include commercial retail and services with the residential complex.

Chair Backus expressed concerns that very large and unattractive apartment complexes could still be constructed even with the 20% mixed-use ratio. She also expressed concerns that the code update and design guidelines are not yet completed.

Member Norman also expressed concerns regarding the large number of developments which were already approved or under review by King County prior to the annexation of the Lea Hill area.

Committee Members requested additional information and stated that they did not support Resolution No. 4472 as submitted.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED THE _____ DAY OF APRIL 2009.

Nancy Backus, Chair

Cathy Richardson, Deputy City Clerk